

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. – 3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method of extracting total triterpenoid sapogenins from bamboo comprising:

(a) selecting bamboo material from the group consisting of *Phyllostachys*, *Bambusa* and *Dendrocalamus* genus of Gramineae family;

(b) preparing bamboo shaving powder having a granularity from pole, branch, leaf, shoot, shoot sheath, root or a mixture of the bamboo material by comminuting the bamboo material into bamboo shaving powder;

(c) drying the bamboo shaving powder;

(d) extracting free triterpenoid sapogenins from the bamboo shaving powder by mixing the bamboo shaving powder with supercritical CO₂ fluid and an entrainer in the amount of 5 – 15 % (v/v) of CO₂ until the free triterpenoid sapogenins is dissolved in the CO₂ fluid at temperature 50 – 60 degree C and pressure 25 – 35 Mpa;

(e) separating total triterpenoid sapogenins from the CO₂ fluid containing free triterpenoid sapogenins by changing the temperature of the CO₂ fluid to 35 – 45 degree C and the pressure to 5 – 10 Mpa to gasify the CO₂;

(f) collecting a composition comprising 10 - 90% total triterpenoid sapogenins, said total triterpenoid sapogenins comprising 5 - 35% friedelin and 1 - 10% lupenone.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 4 further comprising extracting free triterpenoid sapogenins from the bamboo shaving powder circularly and dynamically with recycled CO₂ for 2 – 5 hours.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said entrainer is selected from the group consisting of methanol, ethanol, acetone and a mixture of methanol, ethanol and acetone.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Amended) A method of treating hypertension comprising administering to a subject suffering from said hypertension a therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins extracted from bamboo, wherein total triterpenoid sapogenins is 10-90% as determined by vanillic aldehyde and perchloric acid colorimetry using friedelin as a standard, said total triterpenoid sapogenins comprising 5-35% friedelin and 1-10% lupenone as determined by GC-MS, said therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins is administered orally in medicine or food.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for intensifying SOD activity or reducing MDA level of the skin or hair in a subject ~~of protecting skin or hair from senescence~~ comprising administering to a subject a therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins extracted from bamboo, wherein total triterpenoid sapogenins is 10-90% as determined by vanillic aldehyde and perchloric acid colorimetry using friedelin as a standard, said total triterpenoid sapogenins comprising 5-35% friedelin and 1-10% lupenone as determined by GC-MS to intensify SOD activity or to reduce MDA level of the skin or hair, wherein said therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins is administered externally onto the skin or hair in a daily cosmetic.

10. (Previously Amended) A method of inhibiting growth of cancer cells or tumor cells, comprising treating the cancer cells or tumor cells a therapeutically effective amount of total triterpenoid sapogenins extracted from bamboo, wherein total triterpenoid sapogenins is 10-90% as determined by vanillic aldehyde and perchloric acid colorimetry using friedelin as a standard, said total triterpenoid sapogenins comprising 5-35% friedelin and 1-10% lupenone as determined by GC-MS.

11. (Previously Amended) The method according to claim 10, wherein the total triterpenoid sapogenins is pentacyclic triterpenoid sapogenins.

12. - 13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein said granularity is 10 – 20 meshes.